



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

47654 7590 12/30/2008

BAINWOOD HUANG & ASSOCIATES LLC
2 CONNECTOR ROAD
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581

EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, CLAYTON R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2457

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/807,651

03/24/2004

Ralph E. Droms

1004-066.001

4638

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHODS AND APPARATUS SUPPORTING CONFIGURATION IN A NETWORK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	03/30/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

47654 7590 12/30/2008

BAINWOOD HUANG & ASSOCIATES LLC
2 CONNECTOR ROAD
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/807,651 03/24/2004 Ralph E. Droms 1004-066.001 4638

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHODS AND APPARATUS SUPPORTING CONFIGURATION IN A NETWORK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
-------------	--------------	---------------	---------------------	----------------------	------------------	----------

nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 03/30/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
----------	----------	----------------

WILLIAMS, CLAYTON R 2457 709-220000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,651	03/24/2004	Ralph E. Droms	1004-066.001	4638
47654	7590	12/30/2008	EXAMINER	
BAINWOOD HUANG & ASSOCIATES LLC 2 CONNECTOR ROAD WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581			WILLIAMS, CLAYTON R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2457	
DATE MAILED: 12/30/2008				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 959 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 959 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/807,651	DROMS, RALPH E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Clayton R. Williams	2457	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/2/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-8,10-12,15-17,24-26,28-30,32-37,39,41,43 and 45.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

/ARIO ETIENNE/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2457

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Thompson on Dec. 12, 2008.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~[[1]]~~11 further comprising:
~~monitoring communications including commands received from over the network and destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and~~
wherein disabling the network interface includes temporarily disabling a link supporting communications from the host computer through the network interface to deny the host computer access to the network, denial of access to the network prompting the host computer to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface.

Art Unit: 2457

7. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim [[1]]11, wherein disabling the network interface utilized by the host computer includes:
- temporarily terminating an electronic signal otherwise transmitted on a communication link from the network interface to the host computer to maintain a connection between the host computer and the network, termination of the electronic signal causing the host computer to initiate a routine to re-establish another communication link through the network interface to access the network.
8. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim [[1]]11, wherein disabling the network interface causes the host computer to detect that the host computer is no longer able to communicate through the network interface, the host computer, in response, initiating a routine to re-establish a link through the network interface to access the network via a different network service than used to access the network prior to the disabling of the network interface.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim [[1]]11 further comprising:
- receiving a second network message through the network interface from over the network;
- identifying that the second network message includes a reconfiguration command directed to a second host computer; and
- forwarding the ~~other~~ second network message to the second host computer which executes the reconfiguration command to reconfigure the second host computer with a new network address.
11. (Original) A method for reconfiguring a host computer to access a network, the method comprising:
- providing the host computer access to the network through a network interface;

Art Unit: 2457

forwarding a network message transmitted to the host computer from a node in the network through the network interface, the network message including a command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface;

after forwarding the network message to the host computer, monitoring communications transmitted from the host computer through the network interface to identify whether the host computer initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the network message; and

in response to detecting that the host computer does not initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on receipt of the network message, disabling the network interface utilized by the host computer to access the network.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 11, wherein providing the host computer access to the network through a the network interface includes:
- supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface based on a connection oriented protocol.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method as in claim 12, wherein disabling the network interface includes:
- terminating a link between the host computer and the network at a link layer of a connection-oriented protocol supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 11 further comprising:
- identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command transmitted from a configuration server through the network interface to the host

Art Unit: 2457

computer, the network message transmitted by the configuration server to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer.

16. (Original) A method as in claim 15, wherein identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command includes:

detecting that the network message is a DHCPFORCERENEW (Dynamic Host Control Protocol Force Renew) message transmitted from the configuration server to the host computer, the configuration server attempting to initiate reconfiguration of a network address of the host computer via the network message.

17. (Original) A method as in claim 12, wherein disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate a request for an assignment of a new network address supporting further communications through the network interface.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A computer system as in claim ~~[[19]]~~29 further performing operations of:

~~monitoring communications including commands received from over the network and destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and~~

wherein the operation of disabling the network interface includes temporarily disabling a link supporting communications from the host computer

Art Unit: 2457

through the network interface to deny the host computer access to the network, denial of access to the network prompting the host computer to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer system as in claim ~~[[19]]~~29, wherein the operation of disabling the host computer includes:

temporarily terminating an electronic signal otherwise transmitted on a communication link from the network interface to the host computer to maintain a connection between the host computer and the network, termination of the electronic signal causing the host computer to initiate a routine to re-establish another communication link through the network interface to access the network.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer system as in claim ~~[[19]]~~29, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface causes the host computer to detect that the host computer is no longer able to communicate through the network interface, the host computer, in response, initiating a routine to re-establish a link through the network interface to access the network via a different network service than used to access the network prior to the disabling of the network interface.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A computer system as in claim ~~[[19]]~~29 further performing operations of :

receiving a second network message through the network interface from over the network;

identifying that the second network message includes a reconfiguration command directed to second host computer; and

Art Unit: 2457

forwarding the ~~other~~ second network message to the second host computer which executes the reconfiguration command to reconfigure the second host computer with a new network address.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer system supporting access to a network, the computer system including:

- a processor;

- a memory unit that stores instructions associated with an application executed by the processor;

- a communication interface that supports communication with nodes in the network; and

- an interconnect coupling the processor, the memory unit, and the communication interface, enabling the computer system to execute the application and perform operations of:

- providing a host computer access to the network through a network interface;

- forwarding a network message transmitted to the host computer from a node in the network through the network interface, the network message including a command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface;

- after forwarding the network message to the host computer, monitoring communications transmitted from the host computer through the network interface to identify whether the host computer initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the network message; and

- in response to detecting that the host computer does not initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on receipt of the network message, disabling the network interface utilized by the host computer to access the network.

Art Unit: 2457

30. (Original) A computer system as in claim 29, wherein providing the host computer access to the network through a network interface includes:
 supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface based on a connection oriented protocol.
31. (Canceled)
32. (Original) A computer system as in claim 30, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface includes:
 terminating a link between the host computer and the network at a link layer of a connection-oriented protocol supporting communications between the host computer and the network through the network interface.
33. (Original) A computer system as in claim 29 further performing operations of:
 identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command transmitted from a configuration server through the network interface to the host computer, the network message transmitted by the configuration server to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer.
34. (Original) A computer system as in claim 33, wherein the operation of identifying that the network message is a reconfigure command includes:
 detecting that the network message is a DHCPFORCERENEW (Dynamic Host Control Protocol Force Renew) message transmitted from the configuration server to the host computer, the configuration server attempting to initiate reconfiguration of a network address of the host computer via the network message.
35. (Original) A computer system as in claim 30, wherein the operation of disabling the network interface prompts the host computer to initiate a request for

Art Unit: 2457

an assignment of a new network address supporting further communications through the network interface.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer system coupled to a network that supports transmission of data, the computer system including:

~~means for enabling the host computer to access a network through a network interface~~ providing a host computer access to the network through a network interface;

~~means for intercepting a network message i) received from over the network and ii) destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface~~ forwarding a network message transmitted to the host computer from a node in the network through the network interface, the network message including a command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface

~~after forwarding the network message to the host computer, means for monitoring communications transmitted from the host computer through the network interface to identify whether the host computer initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the network message; and~~

~~in response to intercepting the network message, means for disabling the network interface to prompt the host computer to perform a reconfiguration routine~~ detecting that the host computer does not initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on receipt of the network message, means for disabling the network interface utilized by the host computer to access the network.

37. (Original) A computer program product including a computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for processing data information, such that the instructions, when carried out by a processing device, enable the processing device to perform the steps of:

~~enabling the host computer to access a network through a network interface;~~

Art Unit: 2457

~~intercepting a network message i) received from over the network and ii) destined for receipt by the host computer through the network interface; and in response to intercepting the network message, disabling the network interface to prompt the host computer to perform a reconfiguration routine providing a host computer access to a network through a network interface;~~

forwarding a network message transmitted to the host computer from a node in the network through the network interface, the network message including a command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer for further communications through the network interface;

after forwarding the network message to the host computer, monitoring communications transmitted from the host computer through the network interface to identify whether the host computer initiates reconfiguration of the host computer based on execution of the network message; and

in response to detecting that the host computer does not initiate reconfiguration of the host computer based on receipt of the network message, disabling the network interface utilized by the host computer to access the network.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 11 wherein:

the method further comprises receiving at the network interface from the host computer a web-based command to connect the host computer to the network via a different network service than used to connect the host computer to the network prior to the disabling of the network interface, and sending the web-based command across the network to the node in the network; and

forwarding the network message includes receiving, at the network interface, the network message from the node in the network in response to sending the web-based command across the network to the node in the network.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) A computer system as in claim 29 further performing operations of receiving at the network interface from the host computer a web-based command to connect the host computer to the network via a different network service than used to connect the host computer to the network prior to the disabling of the network interface, and sending the web-based command across the network to the node in the network; and wherein:

the operation of forwarding the network message includes receiving, at the network interface, the network message from the node in the network in response to sending the web-based command across the network to the node in the network.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 11, wherein the network is separate from the host computer and network interface, and is accessible by the network interface via any one of a plurality of network services;

wherein providing the host computer access to the network through the network interface includes assigning the host computer a first IP address to allow the host computer to access the network via use of a first network service;

wherein the command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer includes a command to obtain a second IP address that is different from the first IP address to allow the host computer to access the network via use of a second network service; and

further comprising assigning the host computer the second IP address to allow the host computer to access the network via use of the second network service.

Art Unit: 2457

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A computer system as in claim 29, wherein the network is separate from the host computer and network interface, and is accessible by the network interface via any one of a plurality of network services;

wherein providing the host computer access to the network through the network interface includes assigning the host computer a first IP address to allow the host computer to access the network via use of a first network service;

wherein the command to initiate reconfiguration of the host computer includes a command to obtain a second IP address that is different from the first IP address to allow the host computer to access the network via use of a second network service; and

wherein the interconnect coupling further enables the computer system to execute the application and perform operations of assigning the host computer the second IP address to allow the host computer to access the network via use of a second network service.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 6-8, 10-12, 15-17, 24-26, 28-30, 32-37, 39, 41, 43 and 45 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The closest prior art of record, Monachello does not teach nor suggest in detail a method wherein a network interface utilized by a host computer is disabled in the event the host computer does not reconfigure its method of access to a network in response to receipt of a reconfiguration command. Rather, Monachello teaches providing a host computer with a reconfigure command; however, this command is not "forwarded", but a message

Art Unit: 2457

generated by an intermediary node in response to receipt of a reconfigure command from a reconfiguration server is transmitted to the host computer. Moreover, there is no teaching in Monachello that the network interface is disabled in the event the host computer does not reconfigure itself in response to the reconfiguration command.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clayton R. Williams whose telephone number is 571-270-3801. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2457

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dec. 16, 2008
CRW

Clayton R. Williams
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2457

/ARIO ETIENNE/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2457